IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/709,957 Confirmation No. 3956

Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara, et al.

Filed : June 9, 2004

T.C./A.U. : 1763

Examiner : Ram N. Kackar

Docket No. : 39.016-C

Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 19, 2005 reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, amended as follows, is respectfully requested. (This reply is being filed on June 19, 2006 along with a petition for a three-month extension of time, and is therefore timely filed.)

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.